DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Request

Witness appearing before the

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies

Good morning, Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee. As you know, I am Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., and I am the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). It is an honor to appear before you today to present the Administration's fiscal year (FY) 2017

complement the ICOs' individual strategic plans that are aligned with their specific congressionally mandated missions.

The plan focuses on four essential, interdependent objectives that will help guide NIH's priorities over the next five years as it pursues its mission and optimizes return on public investment. The objectives are to:

1) advance opportunities in biomedical research, from basic science to prevention and treatment;
2) use all available information to set NIH priorities nimbly and wisely;
3) enhance stewardship of the resources provided by the American people; and
4) excel as a federal science agency by managing for results.

Our strategic plan concludes with a bold vision of advances we will strive to deliver over the next five years including: enhanced survival of cancer patients from applications of precision medicine, critical steps toward universal flu and HIV vaccines, and crucial progress on the artificial pancreas that will lead to better management of diabetes. NIH will pursue these and many other forward-looking measures to enhance our role as a visionary steward of the resources entrusted to us by the American people. Such actions will ensure that the U.S. biomedical research enterprise remains on the pathway to a bright and sustainable future.

Today, I want to share with you a few of the many promising opportunities before us that will lead to that healthier future for all. First, of all, many recent breakthroughs stem from our nation's commitment to investing in basic science research. Basic science lays the foundation for advances in disease diagnosis, treatment, and prevention by providing the building blocks for clinical applications. Basic science is generally not supported in the private sector, and NIH's

emergence of computational tools for analyzing large biomedical data sets, precision medicine is poised to usher in a new era in how we treat and diagnose disease. Ramped up funding in FY 2017 will support several activities that are critical to the scope of the PMI Cohort Program, including enrolling and consenting participants, core phenotyping, expanded informatics, building a biorepository, and

tumor cells, enhanced data sharing, and new approaches to pediatric cancer. Our sister agency, the FDA, proposes a new Oncology Center of Excellence to speed progress in approval of new diagnostics and therapeutics that will be safe and effective. We are at an inflection point in cancer research, and the science is ready for the concerted new effort this initiative will bring.

While all of these exciting research efforts and scientific opportunities are leading to a much deeper understanding of health and human disease, much more work needs to be done.

To this end, the President's FY 2017 budget request for the NIH is $33.136 billion, $825 million or 2.5 percent

I have provided you with examples of how investments in biomedical research through NIH are advancing human health, spurring innovations in science and technology, stimulating economic growth, and laying the groundwork for the future of the United States biomedical research enterprise. We have never witnessed a time of greater promise for advances in medicine than right now. With your support, the future of medicine can be very bright.

This concludes my testimony, and I look forward to answering your questions.